



Town of Rowe  
**Board of Selectmen** Minutes  
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 –4:00 p.m.  
VIA TELECONFERENCE

*This meeting will be held via video conference, consistent with Gov. Baker's temporary modifications to Open Meeting Law due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**Board of Selectmen:** Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Joanne Semanie  
**Absent:** Selectman Ed Silva  
**Administrative Staff:** Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

**Audience:** Board of Health Chair Maggie Rice, Ben Werner Director Rowe Camp and Conference Center

**Call to Order:** Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 4:10 P.M., a quorum of the board present via remote participation.

**MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:**

**Chair Sokol:** yes

**Silva:** absent

**Vice-Chair Semanie:** yes

**Background:** This group of individuals (self-titled "Covid Group") has been meeting weekly for the past few months to listen to the state Covid-19 briefings and discuss ongoing matters in town related to the pandemic. As Board of Health Clerk Joanne Semanie was elected last Saturday to the Board of Selectmen, there is now a quorum of the board present during these weekly meetings, and as such, must take place in open session.

**Covid Discussion:** The following points/topics were addressed during discussion:  
Maggie Rice, Board of Health Chair reported the following:

- 90% over 60 residents have been vaccinated in Rowe
- Chair Rice said there are efforts from Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Health Public Health Oversight Board to address unvaccinated and ethnicities that were apprehensive about vaccination.
- The last area clinic will be a drive through at the Charlemont Fairgrounds on June 13, 2021
- Walgreens and CVS will continue to offer vaccinations
- Chair Rice spoke about another matter that came before the Board of Health and reported it to the Police Dept. as there was dumping on Davenport Road. She said the DPW has picked up the trash.

- There was discussion about finalizing the “Opt-Out of Mosquito Spraying Application” for Rowe and Selectmen will discuss further on Thursday.

**The following message was prepared for the Public Notification System:**

“Good Evening Rowe Residents,

The following is the weekly message regarding the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. This message will focus on the upcoming Municipal Election and Annual Town Meeting, and the accommodations that are being put in place to help minimize the risks of spreading the coronavirus at that meeting, which includes some expectations of those in attendance.

The Municipal election will be held Saturday, May 15th at 1pm in the Rowe Elementary School Gymnasium. The Annual Town Meeting will occur earlier that same day, Saturday, May 15th, at 10AM outdoors behind the Rowe Elementary School near the baseball field. If inclement weather prevents the Town Meeting from occurring, it will be held on the rain date of Sunday, May 16th at 10AM. If it rains Sunday as well, the meeting will be held indoors at the school in the gymnasium. If the Town Meeting is to be delayed due to inclement weather, expect to receive an additional robo-call informing you of that delay.

To comply with CDC recommendations, cloth face coverings will be required of anyone attending the annual town meeting, even if you have been vaccinated.

While at the meeting, please remember to sit far enough away from other people such that there will always be at least 6 feet of distance between you and anyone else, including when someone is walking to or from their seat. This will require a greater than 6-foot distance between your seating location and the next closest group. You may sit in a group with people from your own household, provided the entire household maintains the required distance from other groups.

There will be a tent set up in the field. Please allow people who for health or accessibility reasons require the use of the tent, as space within the tent is limited due to social distancing requirements.

Please be willing to follow instructions and signage regarding any other guidance or requirements at the Annual Town Meeting. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we all do our best to keep each other safe while maintaining the opportunity for full civic engagement.

The Rowe Coronavirus task force will continue to keep you updated on these and other coronavirus topics on an on-going basis.

~Chuck Sokol

Thank you, and stay healthy”

~Chuck Sokol

Adjournment:

MOTION: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting 4:54 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol:                    yes

Silva:                                absent

Vice-Chair Semanie:    yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: May 27, 2021

Approved:



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Chuck Sokol, Chair



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Selectman Joanne Semanie

**Documents:**

- Agenda May 11, 2021